

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

- 5 1. A method for treating a gastrointestinal motility disorder in a mammal
 which comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective
 amount of interleukin-11.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the therapeutically effective amount of
10 interleukin-11 comprises 1 to 1000 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ body weight.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the interleukin-11 is administered daily
 until improvement of the disorder is observed.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the interleukin-11 is administered daily
 until remission of the disorder is observed.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the gastrointestinal motility disorder is
 gastroesophageal reflux disease.
- 20 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the gastrointestinal motility disorder is
 post-operative adynamic ileus.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the mammal is a preterm infant and the
25 gastrointestinal motility disorder is intolerance to oral feeding.
8. A method of preventing the onset of a gastrointestinal motility disorder in
 a mammal which comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically
 effective amount of interleukin-11.
- 30 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the therapeutically effective amount of
 interleukin-11 comprises 1 to 1000 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ body weight.

- 5 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the gastrointestinal motility disorder is selected from the group consisting of: gastrointestinal reflux diseases, post-operative adynamic ileus and intolerance to oral feeding.
- 10 11. A method of increasing the plasma concentration of motilin in a mammal which comprises administering to themammal a therapeutically effective amount of interleukin-11.
- 15 12. A method of increasing the tissue concentration of motilin in the duodenal mucosa of a mammal which comprises administering to themammal a therapeutically effective amount of interleukin-11.
- 20 13. A method of improving the contractile parameters of the neuromuscular layer of the gut wall of a mammal afflicted iwth colitis which comprises administering to themammal a therapeutically effective amount of interleukin-11.